

1 AN ACT relating to suicide prevention training.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 156.095 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) The Kentucky Department of Education shall establish, direct, and maintain a  
5 statewide program of professional development to improve instruction in the public  
6 schools.

7 (2) Each local school district superintendent shall appoint a certified school employee  
8 to fulfill the role and responsibilities of a professional development coordinator who  
9 shall disseminate professional development information to schools and personnel.  
10 Upon request by a school council or any employees of the district, the coordinator  
11 shall provide technical assistance to the council or the personnel that may include  
12 assisting with needs assessments, analyzing school data, planning and evaluation  
13 assistance, organizing districtwide programs requested by school councils or groups  
14 of teachers, or other coordination activities.

15 (a) The manner of appointment, qualifications, and other duties of the  
16 professional development coordinator shall be established by Kentucky Board  
17 of Education through promulgation of administrative regulations.

18 (b) The local district professional development coordinator shall participate in the  
19 Kentucky Department of Education annual training program for local school  
20 district professional development coordinators. The training program may  
21 include, but not be limited to, the demonstration of various approaches to  
22 needs assessment and planning; strategies for implementing long-term,  
23 school-based professional development; strategies for strengthening teachers'  
24 roles in the planning, development, and evaluation of professional  
25 development; and demonstrations of model professional development  
26 programs. The training shall include information about teacher learning  
27 opportunities relating to the core content standards. The Kentucky Department

1 of Education shall regularly collect and distribute this information.

2 (3) The Kentucky Department of Education shall provide or facilitate optional,  
3 professional development programs for certified personnel throughout the  
4 Commonwealth that are based on the statewide needs of teachers, administrators,  
5 and other education personnel. Programs may include classified staff and parents  
6 when appropriate. Programs offered or facilitated by the department shall be at  
7 locations and times convenient to local school personnel and shall be made  
8 accessible through the use of technology when appropriate. They shall include  
9 programs that: address the goals for Kentucky schools as stated in KRS 158.6451,  
10 including reducing the achievement gaps as determined by an equity analysis of the  
11 disaggregated student performance data from the state assessment program  
12 developed under KRS 158.6453; engage educators in effective learning processes  
13 and foster collegiality and collaboration; and provide support for staff to incorporate  
14 newly acquired skills into their work through practicing the skills, gathering  
15 information about the results, and reflecting on their efforts. Professional  
16 development programs shall be made available to teachers based on their needs  
17 which shall include but not be limited to the following areas:

- 18 (a) Strategies to reduce the achievement gaps among various groups of students  
19 and to provide continuous progress;
- 20 (b) Curriculum content and methods of instruction for each content area,  
21 including differentiated instruction;
- 22 (c) School-based decision making;
- 23 (d) Assessment literacy;
- 24 (e) Integration of performance-based student assessment into daily classroom  
25 instruction;
- 26 (f) Nongraded primary programs;
- 27 (g) Research-based instructional practices;

- 1 (h) Instructional uses of technology;
- 2 (i) Curriculum design to serve the needs of students with diverse learning styles  
3 and skills and of students of diverse cultures;
- 4 (j) Instruction in reading, including phonics, phonemic awareness,  
5 comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary;
- 6 (k) Educational leadership; and
- 7 (l) Strategies to incorporate character education throughout the curriculum.
- 8 (4) The department shall assist school personnel in assessing the impact of professional  
9 development on their instructional practices and student learning.
- 10 (5) The department shall assist districts and school councils with the development of  
11 long-term school and district improvement plans that include multiple strategies for  
12 professional development based on the assessment of needs at the school level.
- 13 (a) Professional development strategies may include, but are not limited to,  
14 participation in subject matter academies, teacher networks, training institutes,  
15 workshops, seminars, and study groups; collegial planning; action research;  
16 mentoring programs; appropriate university courses; and other forms of  
17 professional development.
- 18 (b) In planning the use of the four (4) days for professional development under  
19 KRS 158.070, school councils and districts shall give priority to programs that  
20 increase teachers' understanding of curriculum content and methods of  
21 instruction appropriate for each content area based on individual school plans.  
22 The district may use up to one (1) day to provide district-wide training and  
23 training that is mandated by state or federal law. Only those employees  
24 identified in the mandate or affected by the mandate shall be required to attend  
25 the training.
- 26 (c) State funds allocated for professional development shall be used to support  
27 professional development initiatives that are consistent with local school

1 improvement and professional development plans and teachers' individual  
2 growth plans. The funds may be used throughout the year for all staff,  
3 including classified and certified staff and parents on school councils or  
4 committees. A portion of the funds allocated to each school council under  
5 KRS 160.345 may be used to prepare or enhance the teachers' knowledge and  
6 teaching practices related to the content and subject matter that are required  
7 for their specific classroom assignments.

8 (6) (a) By August 1, 2010, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services  
9 shall post on its Web page suicide prevention awareness information, to  
10 include recognizing the warning signs of a suicide crisis. The Web page shall  
11 include information related to suicide prevention training opportunities  
12 offered by the cabinet or an agency recognized by the cabinet as a training  
13 provider.

14 (b) By September 15, 2018~~[1, 2010]~~, and September 15~~[1]~~ of each year thereafter,  
15 every public middle and high school administrator shall disseminate suicide  
16 prevention awareness information to all middle and high school students. The  
17 information may be obtained from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services  
18 or from a commercially developed suicide prevention training program.

19 (c) 1. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, and every other year  
20 thereafter, a minimum of one (1) hour of high-quality suicide  
21 prevention training shall be required for all high school and middle  
22 school principals, guidance counselors, and teachers. The training  
23 shall be provided either in-person, by live streaming, or via a video  
24 recording and may be included in the four (4) days of professional  
25 development under KRS 158.070.

26 2. When a staff member subject to the training under subparagraph 1. of  
27 this paragraph is initially hired during a school year in which the

1                   training is not required, the local district shall provide suicide  
2                   prevention materials to the staff member for review.

3           (d) The requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection shall apply to  
4           public charter schools as a health and safety requirement under KRS  
5           160.1592(1).

- 6       (7) (a) The Kentucky Department of Education shall develop and maintain a list of  
7           approved comprehensive evidence-informed trainings on child abuse and  
8           neglect prevention, recognition, and reporting that encompass child physical,  
9           sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect.
- 10       (b) The trainings shall be Web-based or in-person and cover, at a minimum, the  
11           following topics:
- 12           1. Recognizing child physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect;
  - 13           2. Reporting suspected child abuse and neglect in Kentucky as required by  
14           KRS 620.030 and the appropriate documentation;
  - 15           3. Responding to the child; and
  - 16           4. Understanding the response of child protective services.
- 17       (c) The trainings shall include a questionnaire or other basic assessment tool upon  
18           completion to document basic knowledge of training components.
- 19       (d) Each local school board shall adopt one (1) or more trainings from the list  
20           approved by the Department of Education to be implemented by schools.
- 21       (e) All current school administrators, certified personnel, office staff,  
22           instructional assistants, and coaches and extracurricular sponsors who are  
23           employed by the school district shall complete the implemented training or  
24           trainings by January 31, 2017, and then every two (2) years after.
- 25       (f) All school administrators, certified personnel, office staff, instructional  
26           assistants, and coaches and extracurricular sponsors who are employed by the  
27           school district hired after January 31, 2017, shall complete the implemented

1 training or trainings within ninety (90) days of being hired and then every two  
2 (2) years after.

3 (g) Every public school shall prominently display the statewide child abuse  
4 hotline number administered by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services,  
5 and the National Human Trafficking Reporting Hotline number administered  
6 by the United States Department for Health and Human Services.

7 (8) The Department of Education shall establish an electronic consumer bulletin board  
8 that posts information regarding professional development providers and programs  
9 as a service to school district central office personnel, school councils, teachers, and  
10 administrators. Participation on the electronic consumer bulletin board shall be  
11 voluntary for professional development providers or vendors, but shall include all  
12 programs sponsored by the department. Participants shall provide the following  
13 information: program title; name of provider or vendor; qualifications of the  
14 presenters or instructors; objectives of the program; program length; services  
15 provided, including follow-up support; costs for participation and costs of materials;  
16 names of previous users of the program, addresses, and telephone numbers; and  
17 arrangements required. Posting information on the bulletin board by the department  
18 shall not be viewed as an endorsement of the quality of any specific provider or  
19 program.

20 (9) The Department of Education shall provide training to address the characteristics  
21 and instructional needs of students at risk of school failure and most likely to drop  
22 out of school. The training shall be developed to meet the specific needs of all  
23 certified and classified personnel depending on their relationship with these  
24 students. The training for instructional personnel shall be designed to provide and  
25 enhance skills of personnel to:

26 (a) Identify at-risk students early in elementary schools as well as at-risk and  
27 potential dropouts in the middle and high schools;

- 1 (b) Plan specific instructional strategies to teach at-risk students;
- 2 (c) Improve the academic achievement of students at risk of school failure by  
3 providing individualized and extra instructional support to increase  
4 expectations for targeted students;
- 5 (d) Involve parents as partners in ways to help their children and to improve their  
6 children's academic progress; and
- 7 (e) Significantly reduce the dropout rate of all students.
- 8 (10) The department shall establish teacher academies to the extent funding is available  
9 in cooperation with postsecondary education institutions for elementary, middle  
10 school, and high school faculty in core disciplines, utilizing facilities and faculty  
11 from universities and colleges, local school districts, and other appropriate agencies  
12 throughout the state. Priority for participation shall be given to those teachers who  
13 are teaching core discipline courses for which they do not have a major or minor or  
14 the equivalent. Participation of teachers shall be voluntary.
- 15 (11) The department shall annually provide to the oversight council established in KRS  
16 15A.063, the information received from local schools pursuant to KRS 158.449.
- 17 ➔Section 2. KRS 158.070 is amended to read as follows:
- 18 (1) As used in this section:
- 19 (a) "Election" has the same meaning as in KRS 121.015;
- 20 (b) "Minimum school term" or "school term" means not less than one hundred  
21 eighty-five (185) days composed of the student attendance days, teacher  
22 professional days, and holidays;
- 23 (c) "School calendar" means the document adopted by a local board of education  
24 that establishes the minimum school term, student instructional year or  
25 variable student instructional year, and days that school will not be in session;
- 26 (d) "School district calendar committee" means a committee consisting of:
- 27 1. One (1) school district principal;

- 1           2. One (1) school district office administrator other than the  
2           superintendent;
  - 3           3. One (1) member of the local board of education;
  - 4           4. Two (2) parents of students attending a school in the district;
  - 5           5. One (1) school district elementary school teacher;
  - 6           6. One (1) school district middle or high school teacher;
  - 7           7. Two (2) school district classified employees; and
  - 8           8. Two (2) community members from the local chamber of commerce,  
9           business community, or tourism commission;
- 10       (e) "Student attendance day" means any day that students are scheduled to be at  
11       school to receive instruction, and encompasses the designated start and  
12       dismissal time;
- 13       (f) "Student instructional year" means at least one thousand sixty-two (1,062)  
14       hours of instructional time for students delivered on not less than one hundred  
15       seventy (170) student attendance days;
- 16       (g) "Teacher professional day" means any day teachers are required to report to  
17       work as determined by a local board of education, with or without the  
18       presence of students; and
- 19       (h) "Variable student instructional year" means at least one thousand sixty-two  
20       (1,062) hours of instructional time delivered on the number of student  
21       attendance days adopted by a local board of education which shall be  
22       considered proportionally equivalent to one hundred seventy (170) student  
23       attendance days and calendar days for the purposes of a student instructional  
24       year, employment contracts that are based on the school term, service credit  
25       under KRS 161.500, and funding under KRS 157.350.
- 26       (2) (a) Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, and each year thereafter, the local  
27       board of education, upon recommendation of the local school district

1 superintendent, shall annually appoint a school district calendar committee to  
2 review, develop, and recommend school calendar options.

3 (b) The school district calendar committee, after seeking feedback from school  
4 district employees, parents, and community members, shall recommend  
5 school calendar options to the local school district superintendent for  
6 presentation to the local board of education. The committee's  
7 recommendations shall comply with state laws and regulations and consider  
8 the economic impact of the school calendar on the community and the state.

9 (c) Prior to adopting a school calendar, the local board of education shall hear for  
10 discussion the school district calendar committee's recommendations and the  
11 recommendation of the superintendent at a meeting of the local board of  
12 education.

13 (d) During a subsequent meeting of the local board of education, the local board  
14 shall adopt a school calendar for the upcoming school year that establishes the  
15 opening and closing dates of the school term, beginning and ending dates of  
16 each school month, student attendance days, and days on which schools shall  
17 be dismissed. The local board may schedule days for breaks in the school  
18 calendar that shall not be counted as a part of the minimum school term.

19 (e) For local board of education meetings described in paragraphs (c) and (d) of  
20 this subsection, if the meeting is a regular meeting, notice shall be given to  
21 media outlets that have requests on file to be notified of special meetings  
22 stating the date of the regular meeting and that one (1) of the items to be  
23 considered in the regular meeting will be the school calendar. The notice shall  
24 be sent at least twenty-four (24) hours before the regular meeting. This  
25 requirement shall not be deemed to make any requirements or limitations  
26 relating to special meetings applicable to the regular meeting.

27 (f) Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, and each year thereafter, a local

1 school board of education that adopts a school calendar with the first student  
2 attendance day in the school term starting no earlier than the Monday closest  
3 to August 26 may use a variable student instructional year. Districts may set  
4 the length of individual student attendance days in a variable student  
5 instructional schedule, but no student attendance day shall contain more than  
6 seven (7) hours of instructional time unless the district submitted and received  
7 approval from the commissioner of education for an innovative alternative  
8 calendar.

9 (3) (a) Each local board of education shall use four (4) days of the minimum school  
10 term for professional development and collegial planning activities for the  
11 professional staff without the presence of students pursuant to the  
12 requirements of KRS 156.095. At the discretion of the superintendent, one (1)  
13 day of professional development may be used for district-wide activities and  
14 for training that is mandated by federal or state law. The use of three (3) days  
15 shall be planned by each school council, except that the district is encouraged  
16 to provide technical assistance and leadership to school councils to maximize  
17 existing resources and to encourage shared planning.

18 (b) ~~[In addition to the four (4) days required under paragraph (a) of this~~  
19 ~~subsection, a minimum of two (2) hours of self-study review of suicide~~  
20 ~~prevention materials shall be required for all high school and middle school~~  
21 ~~principals, guidance counselors, and teachers each school year.~~

22 (c) ~~]~~A local board may approve a school's flexible professional development plan  
23 that permits teachers or other certified personnel within a school to participate  
24 in professional development activities outside the days scheduled in the school  
25 calendar or the regularly scheduled hours in the school work day and receive  
26 credit towards the four (4) day professional development requirement within  
27 the minimum one hundred eighty-five (185) days that a teacher shall be

1 employed.

2 1. A flexible schedule option shall be reflected in the school's professional  
3 development component within the school improvement plan or  
4 consolidated plan and approved by the local board. Credit for approved  
5 professional development activities may be accumulated in periods of  
6 time other than full day segments.

7 2. No teacher or administrator shall be permitted to count participation in a  
8 professional development activity under the flexible schedule option  
9 unless the activity is related to the teacher's classroom assignment and  
10 content area, or the administrator's job requirements, or is required by  
11 the school improvement or consolidated plan, or is tied to the teacher's  
12 or the administrator's individual growth plan. The supervisor shall give  
13 prior approval and shall monitor compliance with the requirements of  
14 this paragraph. In the case of teachers, a professional development  
15 committee or the school council by council policy may be responsible  
16 for reviewing requests for approval.

17 ~~(c)~~~~(d)~~ The local board of each school district may use up to a maximum of four  
18 (4) days of the minimum school term for holidays; provided, however, any  
19 holiday which occurs on Saturday may be observed on the preceding Friday.

20 ~~(d)~~~~(e)~~ Each local board may use two (2) days for planning activities without  
21 the presence of students.

22 ~~(e)~~~~(f)~~ Each local board may close schools for the number of days deemed  
23 necessary for:

24 1. National or state emergency or mourning when proclaimed by the  
25 President of the United States or the Governor of the Commonwealth of  
26 Kentucky;

27 2. Local emergency which would endanger the health or safety of children;

1                   and

2                   3. Mourning when so designated by the local board of education and  
3                   approved by the Kentucky Board of Education upon recommendation of  
4                   the commissioner of education.

5 (4) (a) The Kentucky Board of Education, upon recommendation of the  
6                   commissioner of education, shall adopt administrative regulations governing  
7                   the use of student attendance days as a result of a local emergency, as  
8                   described in subsection (3)~~(e)~~~~(f)~~2. of this section, and regulations setting  
9                   forth the guidelines and procedures to be observed for the approval of waivers  
10                  from the requirements of a student instructional year in subsection (1)(f) of  
11                  this section for districts that wish to adopt innovative instructional calendars,  
12                  or for circumstances that would create extreme hardship.

13               (b) If a local board of education amends its school calendar after its adoption due  
14               to an emergency, it may lengthen or shorten any remaining student attendance  
15               days by thirty (30) minutes or more, as it deems necessary, provided the  
16               amended calendar complies with the requirements of a student instructional  
17               year in subsection (1)(f) of this section or a variable student instructional year  
18               in subsection (1)(h) of this section. No student attendance day shall contain  
19               more than seven (7) hours of instructional time unless the district submitted  
20               and received approval from the commissioner of education for an innovative  
21               alternative calendar.

22 (5) (a) 1. In setting the school calendar, school may be closed for two (2)  
23                   consecutive days for the purpose of permitting professional school  
24                   employees to attend statewide professional meetings.

25               2. These two (2) days for statewide professional meetings may be  
26               scheduled to begin with the first Thursday after Easter, or upon request  
27               of the statewide professional education association having the largest

- 1           paid membership, the commissioner of education may designate  
2           alternate dates.
- 3           3. If schools are scheduled to operate during days designated for the  
4           statewide professional meeting, the school district shall permit  
5           employees who are delegates to attend as compensated professional  
6           leave time and shall employ substitute teachers in their absence.
- 7           4. The commissioner of education shall designate one (1) additional day  
8           during the school year when schools may be closed to permit  
9           professional school employees to participate in regional or district  
10          professional meetings.
- 11          5. These three (3) days so designated for attendance at professional  
12          meetings may be counted as a part of the minimum school term.
- 13          (b) 1. If any school in a district is used as a polling place, the school district  
14          shall be closed on the day of the election, and those days may be used  
15          for professional development activities, professional meetings, or  
16          parent-teacher conferences.
- 17          2. A district may be open on the day of an election if no school in the  
18          district is used as a polling place.
- 19          (c) All schools shall be closed on the third Monday of January in observance of  
20          the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. Districts may:
- 21                  1. Designate the day as one (1) of the four (4) holidays permitted under  
22                  subsection (3)~~(c)~~~~(d)~~ of this section; or
- 23                  2. Not include the day in the minimum school term specified in subsection  
24                  (1) of this section.
- 25          (6) (a) The Kentucky Board of Education, or the organization or agency designated  
26          by the board to manage interscholastic athletics, shall be encouraged to  
27          schedule athletic competitions outside the regularly scheduled student

1 attendance day.

2 (b) Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, any member of a school-  
3 sponsored interscholastic athletic team who competes in a regional  
4 tournament or state tournament sanctioned by the Kentucky Board of  
5 Education, or the organization or agency designated by the board to manage  
6 interscholastic athletics, and occurring on a regularly scheduled student  
7 attendance day may be counted present at school on the date or dates of the  
8 competition, as determined by local board policy, for a maximum of two (2)  
9 days per student per year. The student shall be expected to complete any  
10 assignments missed on the date or dates of the competition.

11 (c) The school attendance record of any student for whom paragraph (b) of this  
12 subsection applies shall indicate that the student was in attendance on the date  
13 or dates of competition.

14 (7) Students applying for excused absence for attendance at the Kentucky State Fair  
15 shall be granted one (1) day of excused absence.

16 (8) Schools shall provide continuing education for those students who are determined  
17 to need additional time to achieve the outcomes defined in KRS 158.6451, and  
18 schools shall not be limited to the minimum school term in providing this  
19 education. Continuing education time may include extended days, extended weeks,  
20 or extended years. A local board of education may adopt a policy requiring its  
21 students to participate in continuing education. The local policy shall set out the  
22 conditions under which attendance will be required and any exceptions which are  
23 provided. The Kentucky Board of Education shall promulgate administrative  
24 regulations establishing criteria for the allotment of grants to local school districts  
25 and shall include criteria by which the commissioner of education may approve a  
26 district's request for a waiver to use an alternative service delivery option, including  
27 providing services during the student attendance day on a limited basis. These

1 grants shall be allotted to school districts to provide instructional programs for  
2 pupils who are identified as needing additional time to achieve the outcomes  
3 defined in KRS 158.6451. A school district that has a school operating a model  
4 early reading program under KRS 158.792 may use a portion of its grant money as  
5 part of the matching funds to provide individualized or small group reading  
6 instruction to qualified students outside of the regular classroom during the student  
7 attendance day.

8 (9) Notwithstanding any other statute, each school term shall include no less than the  
9 equivalent of the student instructional year in subsection (1)(f) of this section, or a  
10 variable student instructional year in subsection (1)(h) of this section, except that  
11 the commissioner of education may grant up to the equivalent of ten (10) student  
12 attendance days for school districts that have an alternative instruction plan  
13 approved by the commissioner of education for the use of alternative methods of  
14 instruction, including virtual learning, on days when the school district is closed for  
15 health or safety reasons, on nontraditional days, or on nontraditional time. The  
16 district's plan shall demonstrate how teaching and learning in the district will not be  
17 negatively impacted. Average daily attendance for purposes of Support Education  
18 Excellence in Kentucky program funding during the student attendance days  
19 granted shall be calculated in compliance with administrative regulations  
20 promulgated by the Kentucky Board of Education.

21 (10) Notwithstanding the provisions of KRS 158.060(3) and the provisions of subsection  
22 (2) of this section, a school district shall arrange bus schedules so that all buses  
23 arrive in sufficient time to provide breakfast prior to the beginning of the student  
24 attendance day. In the event of an unforeseen bus delay, the administrator of a  
25 school that participates in the Federal School Breakfast Program may authorize up  
26 to fifteen (15) minutes of the student attendance day if necessary to provide the  
27 opportunity for children to eat breakfast not to exceed eight (8) times during the

1 school year within a school building.

2 (11) Notwithstanding any other statute to the contrary, the following provisions shall  
3 apply to a school district that misses student attendance days due to emergencies,  
4 including weather-related emergencies:

5 (a) A certified school employee shall be considered to have fulfilled the minimum  
6 one hundred eighty-five (185) day contract with a school district under KRS  
7 157.350 and shall be given credit for the purpose of calculating service credit  
8 for retirement under KRS 161.500 for certified school personnel if:

9 1. State and local requirements under this section are met regarding the  
10 equivalent of the number and length of student attendance days, teacher  
11 professional days, professional development days, holidays, and days for  
12 planning activities without the presence of students; and

13 2. The provisions of the district's school calendar to make up student  
14 attendance days missed due to any emergency, as approved by the  
15 Kentucky Department of Education when required, including but not  
16 limited to a provision for additional instructional time per day, are met.

17 (b) Additional time worked by a classified school employee shall be considered as  
18 equivalent time to be applied toward the employee's contract and calculation  
19 of service credit for classified employees under KRS 78.615 if:

20 1. The employee works for a school district with a school calendar  
21 approved by the Kentucky Department of Education that contains a  
22 provision that additional instructional time per day shall be used to make  
23 up full days missed due to an emergency;

24 2. The employee's contract requires a minimum six (6) hour work day; and

25 3. The employee's job responsibilities and work day are extended when the  
26 instructional time is extended for the purposes of making up time.

27 (c) Classified employees who are regularly scheduled to work less than six (6)

1           hours per day and who do not have additional work responsibilities as a result  
2           of lengthened student attendance days shall be excluded from the provisions  
3           of this subsection. These employees may be assigned additional work  
4           responsibilities to make up service credit under KRS 78.615 that would be  
5           lost due to lengthened student attendance days.